

Message Text

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-----108233 200625Z /15
R 200020Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 183350

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, UR

SUBJECT: MINNESOTA GALLERY ART EXCHANGE

REF: STATE 180497

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED FROM SCHISSLER OF MINNESOTA
GALLERY FOLLOWING MESSAGE FOR CAO JOHNSON.

(BEGIN TEXT): AT MEETINGS IN MOSCOW, MINCULT OFFERED TO
SEND WORKS FOR EXHIBITION IN THREE SHIPMENTS: (A) WORKS
OF ART ON PAPER (GRAPHICS, WATERCOLORS ETC.) BY AUGUST 15;
(B) BULK OF EXHIBITION (OILS OF EASEL SIZE) BETWEEN
AUGUST 15 AND SEPTEMBER 1; (C) SEVERAL (APPROXIMATELY
FIVE) EXTREMELY LARGE OILS BY SEPTEMBER 1 BY SPECIAL CARGO
PLANE TO AMSTERDAM OR PARIS AND FROM THERE TO NEW YORK VIA
WESTERN CARRIER.

PLEASE INFORM MINCULT THAT WE DEFINITELY WISH (A) AND (B)
ABOVE TO BE COMBINED IN ONE SHIPMENT TO BE SENT ON OR ABOUT
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AUGUST 20-22. LARGE WORKS CAN COME LATER, BUT BY SEPTEMBER
1.

ALSO NEED FOLLOWING INFORMATION URGENTLY:

--CONFIRMATION OF EXACT DATE OF FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT
SHIPMENTS SO WE CAN ARRANGE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE;

--NAMES AND ITINERARIES OF PERSONS ACCOMPANYING EACH SHIPMENT. BECAUSE OF NWA STRIKE, WE NEED THIS INFORMATION WELL IN ADVANCE IF WE ARE TO OBTAIN RESERVATIONS ON CONVENIENT FLIGHTS TO MINNEAPOLIS.

--CONFIRMATION AS TO WHETHER NEW YORK CITY TO MINNEAPOLIS SEGMENT OF THE SHIPMENT WILL BE BY AEROFLOT OR AMERICAN CARRIER. OUR AGREEMENT WITH MINCULT WAS THAT MINCULT WOULD ATTEMPT TO PAY AEROFLOT IN RUBLES TO FLY EXHIBITION MOSCOW TO MINNEAPOLIS. IF PAYMENT FOR NYC-MINNEAPOLIS SEGMENT OF THE SHIPMENT MUST BE IN DOLLARS, WE WOULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF UTILIZING AEROFLOT IF THEIR PRICE WERE COMPETITIVE WITH US CARRIERS.

--NEED SHORT TWO TO THREE-PARAGRAPH PREFATORY ESSAY FOR EXHIBITION CATALOGUE FROM SUITABLY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL. DOBRYNIN HAD AGREED TO WRITE ESSAY, BUT SOVIET EMBASSY ADVISES THAT HE IS IN USSR AT LEAST TILL END OF AUGUST. CAN MINCULT SUPPLY ESSAY AT ONCE? SEND IN RUSSIAN IF NECESSARY; BOWLT CAN TRANSLATE. (END TEXT).

2. PLEASE ADVISE.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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